United Nations ST/IC/2003/18

Secretariat

17 March 2003

Information circular*

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: Officer-in-Charge, Office of Central Support Services

Subject: **First day of issue — 28 March 2003: new definitive stamps and postal stationery**

Definitive stamps

1. On Friday, 28 March 2003, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue seven new definitive stamps to meet current and make-up postage rates. Three New York definitive stamps in denominations of 23¢, 37¢ and 70¢, two Vienna definitive stamps in denominations of €0,25 and €1,00 and two special New York stamps in a tête-bêche format will be issued.

2. The 23-cent stamp shows hands interlocking with the word "peace" appearing across the stamp and was designed by Rorie Katz (United Nations). The 37-cent stamp pictures a gold United Nations emblem on a backdrop of the gold text "United Nations" in the six official languages. It, too, was designed by Ms. Katz. The United Nations Headquarters complex is the subject of the 70-cent stamp and marks the

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first holographic image on a United Nations stamp. The text "Greetings from the United Nations" appears on the stamp, which was designed by Ms. Katz and Robert Stein (United Nations).

3. The €0,25 stamp is a photograph of the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna and is credited to Österreich Werbung/Bohnacker. The €1,00 stamp shows a photograph of the Belvedere Palace in Vienna and is credited to Österreich Werbung/H. Wiesenhofer. The photographs were adapted as stamps by Rorie Katz.

(United States equivalents: €0,25: 25 cents; and €1,00: 99 cents, subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)

Centenary of first flight

4. To commemorate the centenary of first flight, UNPA is issuing a pair of stamps in a tête-bêche format showing the full rotation of a propeller in motion. The tête-bêche, another first for UNPA, is a pair of stamps connected together with one stamp right side up, the other upside down. The stamps, designed by Robert Stein, will be in denominations of 23¢ and 70¢. These stamps will be available cancelled on a special cover depicting a photograph of the first powered flight made by Orville Wright on 17 December 1903. The photograph is credited to the United States Library of Congress/Science Photo Library.

5. A special postcard commemorating the centenary will also be released on 28 March. The card, featuring the Wright Flyer of 1908, will be sold as a blank post card, or with the tête-bêche stamps affixed in mint condition or cancelled (see illustration on back page).

Stationery

6. UNPA will issue two new 37-cent pre-stamped envelopes on 28 March to meet revised postal rates. In addition, UNPA will also issue two sets of five postal cards in the denominations of 23 cents and 70 cents. The envelopes and postcards show

illustrations from the book "This is the United Nations", illustrated by M. Sasek, copyright 1968, with the permission of Simon and Schuster, Children's Publishing Division.

General information

7. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day cachets **only**. Members of delegations and the staff can obtain these items on Friday, 28 March, at the following locations:

(a) UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

(b) Temporary counter on the east side of the Secretariat lobby between the cafeteria and the news-stand, in front of the windows: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

8. First day of issue cancellations can be obtained at a temporary United States Postal Service substation located outside the United Nations Bookshop in the concourse of the General Assembly Building from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

9. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.un.org/Depts/UNPA.